

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1194
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2004
CONSERVATION WORK OF JAGANNATH TEMPLE
Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the ASI entrusted with conservation work at the Jagannath temple in Puri recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether now ASI has been accused of taking away 72 pieces of original stones and some old age statues from the temple;
- (d) if so, whether the Government had ordered any inquiry in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the outcome thereof with the action taken against guilty officials?

Answer

MINISTER FOR INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND CULTURE (SHRIS. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a) & (b) ASI has been entrusted with work of structural conservation and chemical preservation of the centrally protected monument of Lord Jagannath temple, Puri.

(c), (d) & (e): Yes, Sir. The news item was found to be incorrect. During conservation work of Garuda Stambha 64 pieces of stones, with no architecture features, were replaced from the base and handed over to the temple administration. The matter has been clarified to the Divisional Commissioner, Cuttuck.